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wards, the bones are exhumed, wept over, and divided amongst the relatives. The chief mourner wears the skull, hung from his neck, upon his back, and carries it for more than a year.

A native was captured during an attack upon Dr. Mouat's expedition, and was brought by him to Calcutta. Though exceedingly ferocious at the time of his capture, it was remarkable how completely and quickly his ferocity left him. He became attached to the sailors, and they to him. He showed himself remarkably docile and imitative, and adopted dress and civilised habits with readiness and constancy.

Dr. Mouat considers the whole of the Andaman group to be inhabited by one single race of men. They are diminutive, but perfectly shaped; they bear no discoverable resemblance to any other race of men. He estimates their number, partly from facts adduced by the Indian Sepoys above mentioned, and corroborated by what he saw, as perhaps attaining to 15,000.

2. *On the Trade between the Eastern Archipelago and New Guinea and its Islands.* By A. RUSSELL WALLACE, F.R.G.S.

THE portion of New Guinea with which trade is regularly maintained from the Eastern Archipelago, includes Geelvink Bay and the north-western part of the island, on both coasts, as far as the 137th degree of longitude. It also includes the adjacent islands of Jobie, Waigaiou, &c., and the more distant ones of Ké and Aru. The entrepot, whence the trade is directly carried on, is a small island, called Kilwaru, scarcely 50 yards across, between Ceram Laut and Keffing, which has a good anchorage on both sides of it.

The only articles of commercial value procured from the interior of New Guinea, are Mussoi bark—which gives an aromatic oil used in Java to rub over the skin—and wild nutmegs. From the coasts and islands come bêche-de-mer, mother-of-pearl, and tortoiseshell, in abundance. There are also pearls, birds of paradise, sago, raw and in cakes, and rice in the husk. Few of these articles go to Europe. The Chinese are the only consumers of bêche-de-mer; the Philippine Islands take the tortoiseshells, and even the pearls and birds of paradise mostly go to China. The goods with which they are all bought, are bar-iron, calico, cheap German knives, &c., and the trade is mainly carried on in native prahus.

Of all this New Guinea district the Aru Islands are the most important. There is a great competition of trade in them; and calicos and handkerchiefs may be obtained even cheaper there than

in the towns where they are actually produced. Fifteen large prahus, carrying a cargo worth 15,000*l.*, and about one hundred small ones, were seen at the Aru Islands at one time, in 1857, when the author visited them. The Ké islanders are the boat-builders of the far East. The Goram group are inhabited by traders.

The staff of life in these islands is sago. A good sized sago-palm will give 1800 cakes of three to the lb., of which five are the ordinary quantity consumed by a man in a day. Hence a single tree may be considered equal to the support of a man throughout the year. The labour to prepare the food is as follows:—Two men, working moderately, will finish a tree in five days, and two women will bake the whole in about five days more; so we may estimate that, with ten days' labour, a man may produce food for a whole year. This is, if he possesses trees of his own; for all the sago-palms are become private property, and cost about 9*s.* each. Again, the cost of labour being 4*d.* a-day, and the cost of the tree 9*s.*, the expense of one year's food for a man is only 12*s.*

PROFESSOR OWEN said the uniform accounts that had reached him of the diminutive stature and low animal life of the natives of the Andaman Islands, had made him peculiarly desirous to acquire the means of comparing their physical characters with those of other forms of the human race. It was therefore with great pleasure that he received for the purpose of examination, he believed, the first skeleton of a male Andamaner which had ever reached Europe. It was through the thoughtfulness for the needs of science manifested by Dr. Mouat, that the specimen was secured which had been submitted to him by that gentleman, and which he had liberally presented to the British Museum. Professor Owen said that the specimen closely accorded with the attribute of the diminutive stature of the Andamaners. The bones were those of a man to all appearance in the prime of life, who evidently did not exceed four feet ten inches in height. As to the character of the bones, he might say he never saw any in texture or in the development of their processes or ridges, or in any of those characteristics which indicated the complete mastery of the frame by a healthy individual—so strongly marked as in those of the little man whose skeleton he had received from Dr. Mouat. His first attention was directed to the ankle, the feet, and that most characteristic member the great toe; and he found all that related to the power of maintaining an upright posture was as well and as perfectly marked in the small skeleton as in one of the highest specimens of the human race. The next point to be considered was the character of the cranium; because the first questions which had been mooted by ethnologists with regard to those little, low-placed savages, as the Andamaners were called, were,—Whence did they come?—with what other race of the human species were they allied? There had been a conjecture that they might possibly have been derived from the negroes imported for slave labour by the Portuguese—that they might have got stranded on the island owing to the wreck of some vessel while bringing them from Africa. Another opinion, founded upon the mere analogy of their dark colour, was that they might be an offshoot of the Papuans that inhabited New Guinea and Australasia. And, thirdly, it had been conjectured that the Andaman Islands might have been peopled by immigrants from the Burmese coast of the continent of Asia. He found, however, that the skull of the

skeleton he had examined decidedly showed that it was not the cranium of the black West-African negro, or of the dark Papuan. In comparing the skull with the Papuans, he found it had not the same lowness and flatness of the brow, nor the frontal ridge overhanging the sunken origin of the nasals, nor the prominence of the cheek bones, nor the degree of prognathism of the jaws, nor the thickness of the cranium, nor the large proportional size of the molars; there was nothing, in fact, in its family character which resembled the skull of the Papuan. Still more decided were the evidences that the Andamaner was no member of the race of the typical negroes: least of all those western negroes from whom the Portuguese and the other slave-importers had derived their slaves. Neither did the cranium, as a whole, exhibit marks of close or special affinity to the Malay or the Mongolian. There was nothing osteological to lead him to infer that the Andamaners had been derived from the Burmese or from any people now inhabiting the continent of Asia. The skull of the present Mincopie was well shaped, neither too long nor too short: its walls were not thicker than those of Europeans. The capacity of the cranium was certainly small, the skull being proportioned to the stature, and the forehead was neither high nor broad; but the bones of the face were developed in a medium degree, with the exception of a slight projection of the upper jaw, such as he had seen developed in some of the lower Europeans, and which might be connected in some degree with protracted suckling of the infant by the mothers, and by the habitual use of the incisors in feeding, which was common to uncivilized people. These were the chief facts he had derived from the study of the skeleton of the Andamaner. They, of course, suggested certain ideas to his mind. The first was this:—Why should ethnologists, when they came to study the natives of an insulated group of people like the Andamaners, deem it necessary to determine to what contemporaneous people they were allied, on the assumption that they had been derived from some existing and neighbouring land? Geological science had established the fact of continuous and progressive, though extremely slow, mutations of land and sea; and had taught them that the continents of modern geography were only the last phases of those mutations. How long the human species had existed, and how far they had been contemporaneous with such mutations, were the preliminary questions which presented themselves in grappling with the problem suggested by a peculiar insular race like the Mincopies. Certain it was, that geologists had conceived that the islands on the south of the present great continent of Asia might be remnants of some antecedent very distinct group of land; and naturalists—and he would more especially mention Sir J. Emerson Tennent, who had paid so great attention to the fauna of Ceylon—had brought to their knowledge a host of facts confirmatory of the idea that Ceylon was not a dismemberment of India, but part of a distinct and antecedent continent. In confirmation of that idea, they had the result of the geological researches of Cautley, Faulkner and others in India, which seemed to show that the Himalayas had risen, lifting up the fossiliferous beds on their present slopes, within comparatively recent geographical time; proving that India had been the site of one of the latest of those great systems of upheaving forces that resulted in the formation of new continents. Was it not, then, possible that the Andamaners might have come from *nowhere*—that was to say, from no actual contiguous and separate land, but might be the representatives of an old race belonging to a former continent that had almost disappeared? He would add, that the Adamaners were true men, showing no special affinity to any lower form of the animal kingdom. They were active, bold, plucky little fellows; and they had as much wit as their notions of daily and annual happiness required. Their islands yielded a sufficiency of food in the form of quadrupeds, such as an indigenous species of wild hog, of fishes, of shell-fish, and various indigenous fruits: their arts had progressed in the degree requisite to enable them to obtain that food.

As climbers, as swimmers, as runners, as leapers, they appeared to exhibit how admirably the human frame was adapted for mastery over the earth, in whatever limit and kind of sphere the bimanous species might become placed.

MR. CRAWFORD agreed entirely with Professor Owen with respect to the physical and intellectual appearance of the Andamans. They were small, compact, and well put together; and, for the purposes of savage life, he did not think they were deficient. Upon the whole, the Andamans were an ingenious people, as far as their means extended. He thought they were a great deal superior to the people of Australia: for the Australians were unable to make a boat; they were ignorant of navigation, and they had never invented the bow and arrow.

The meeting was then adjourned to Monday, Jan. 27th.

Fifth Meeting, Monday, January 27th, 1862.

CAPTAIN R. COLLINSON, R.N., VICE-PRESIDENT, in the Chair.

PRESENTATIONS.—*Rev. Jordan Palmer, M.A.; Sir Christopher Rawlinson; Sir Joshua Rowe; Douglas Henty; Henry Martin; and Thomas Martin, Esqrs., were presented upon their election.*

ELECTIONS.—*Lieut.-Commander W. Digby Mackworth Dolben, R.N.; Captain Horace Mantagu; Lieut.-Colonel A. Park; the Earl of Pomfret; Major Charles S. Showers; Edwin Adams; James Hiscutt Crossman; Alfred Head; J. Binny Key; Clement Davidson Leggatt; George Lumsden; Colin J. Mackenzie; Robert Russell Notman; John Samuel Phené; Robert Prislo Roupell, q.c.; Henry Ayshford Sanford; Franklin Travers; John Wardlaw; and John Watney, Junr., Esqrs., were elected Fellows.*

ACCESSIONS.—Among the accessions to the Library and Map-Rooms since the former Meeting were—*Waugh's 'Report on the Survey of India, 1858-59;'* *Casalis's 'Basutos;'* *Murray's 'Pitcairn;'* *Thomson's Plan of the Province of Otago; Sketch-map of the Ogun River, by Captains Bedingfield and Burton; Admiralty Plan of Shanghai; Ordnance Maps; Admiralty Charts, &c. &c.*

EXHIBITIONS.—*A photograph of the Tuapeka Gold-Fields in New Zealand; Danish Plan of the River Volta; and Maury's Map of the United States, were exhibited at the Meeting.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS.—McDouall Stuart. The CHAIRMAN desired the following extracts to be read from a letter addressed by Messrs. Chambers and Fincke to Lord Ashburton, dated October 26th, 1861:—

“We again take the liberty to address you, to give particulars of our progress in fitting out the present party, under the command of Mr. Stuart, to complete the crossing of our continent from south to north. On the 22nd instant, Mr. Keckwick (second in command)